

a tapered structure adjacent said contact structure,
a circumferentially engageable portion spaced from the contact structure, and
a threadably engageable mounting structure at the opposite end of the cutting element from
the contact structure,

wherein at least a portion of the contact structure is harder than 67 on the Rockwell C scale and
wherein the total length of the cutting element divided by a largest diameter of the cutting element is
less than 3.25.

31. (once amended) A cutting element for cutting brittle materials, the cutting element comprising:

a contact structure comprised of a first material,

a generally tapered shoulder adjacent said contact structure, the shoulder comprised of a
second material, and wherein

the hardness of the second material is at least 1000 points on the Vickers scale, and

the hardness of the first material is at least 300 points harder on the Vickers scale than the
second material, and wherein

the total length of the cutting element divided by the largest diameter of the cutting element
is less than 3.25.